



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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"OPERATION BROKEN ARROW"
NETS NINE IN BREVARD COUNTY ON FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton, Special Agent in Charge Mark R. Trouville, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Miami Field Division, and Brevard County Sheriff J.R. "Jack" Parker, announce the culmination of a year-long investigation resulting in the filing of a federal complaint charging each of nine Brevard County residents--Charles David Watt (age 29), Lavester Brown (age 36), Kennedy Harris (age 39), Mario Jesus Robaina (28), Christopher Abele (27), Ricardo Riley (32), Robert McCray Jr. (31), Joshua Argo (32), and Herman Gibson (20)--with conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and to distribute at least 5 kilograms of cocaine. If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum penalty of life in federal prison.

Between August 2009 and August 2010, members of a cooperative task force conducted a wide reaching investigation, nicknamed "Operation Broken Arrow," in response to information concerning a large cocaine distribution organization operating in Brevard County and beyond. The task force developed further information and evidence that the group, which included numerous residents of Brevard County and the nine defendants named in the complaint, was allegedly trafficking powder cocaine throughout Central Florida. The organization's cocaine distribution network affected Melbourne, Cocoa,

Rockledge, Merritt Island, and Titusville, as well as the Brevard County beaches and Port Canaveral. Starting today, the task force performed a “takedown” to sweep up the major players in the alleged organization and charge them both federally and at the state level with narcotics offenses related to the organization’s operation.

A complaint is merely a charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, the Titusville Police Department, and the Melbourne Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Vincent A. Citro.